

Markoe House (Kirkegade 16B)
16B Church Street
Christiansted
St. Croix
Virgin Islands

HABS No. VI-27

HABS
VI,
1-CHRIS,
25-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HABS
VI
1-CHRIS
25-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MARKOE HOUSE
(Kirkegade 16B)

HABS No. VI-27

Location: 16B Church Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The original design appears to be relatively intact except for door and window sash and interior finishes. It is an unusual but good example of the Christiansted residential architecture.
2. Condition of fabric: The building appears structurally sound. The finishes are in fair condition with some sections of the woodwork damaged by termites. Doors and windows are in fair to poor condition. Approximately 50% are replacements. The building is completely occupied.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Orientation: The building is located on the south side of Kirke Gade with its long side towards the street, and facing northeast. It is built to the street line and the sidewalk runs within a gallery on the first floor.
2. Foundation: The building has a rubble masonry foundation of undetermined depth. The foundation is articulated on the pillars of the first-floor gallery towards the street.
3. Wall construction: The exterior walls are of brick masonry laid in bond. They stand the full height of the building except to the rear where the last bay, extending the full length of the building, is wood frame construction. The interior partitions are masonry on the first floor and wood frame on the upper stories.

The front of the building is divided vertically by eight projecting pilasters through all stories. Horizontal bands between the pilasters mark the floor levels. On the third story the panel between the windows and the horizontal band is decorated with a semicircular ribbon in plaster. The pilasters are crowned with capitals and a continuous cornice.

4. Openings: The building is seven bays long by four bays wide. The ground-floor doors are solid double tongue-and-groove plank construction laid crosswise with the vertical planks toward the exterior. The upper floors have triple-panelled double doors and double louvered doors with a solid panel in the lower section. Windows on the ground floors are barred and are finished with

shutters of the same construction as the first-floor doors. They are without any other form of closure. Second-floor front windows have double four-light casement sash. In the central five bays the windows extend to the floor and in the addition to the four lights have a lower solid panel. They open out. A spool rail is set in the frame between the windows and the interior double shutters which open inwards. The shutters are hinged in the center and have four vertical sections with four panels for each section. The lower panels of the shutters are hung separately forming a dutch door.

The upper floor has eight-light double casement windows in the three center bays towards the street. The flanking windows are twenty-four-light double-hung sash. Towards the rear the windows of the upper floors are furnished with louvered sash opening inward and solid three panelled shutters opening outward. The shutters are missing in approximately 20% of the windows.

5. Roof: The building has a hipped roof, with corrugated metal roofing on sheathing and rafters. The eaves extend only slightly beyond the walls. There is a cornice towards the street as described above.
6. Chimneys: The cook house in the L to the rear has a chimney on an open hearth. There are no other chimneys.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The front and rear bay form a gallery for the full length of the building through all floors. On the first floor toward the street it is an open gallery over the sidewalk, to the rear and the upper floors it is enclosed. On the ground floor the rear gallery is separated by a masonry wall from the rest of the floor which is otherwise without interior partitions. In the upper floors there is a central hall or living room three bays wide, between the front and rear gallery.
2. Stairways: An exterior brick masonry staircase leads to the second-floor entrance on the rear side of the building. An interior wood staircase connects the rear galleries of the second and third floors.
3. Floors: The ground floor is paved in Gotland limestone tile and concrete.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Masonry walls throughout are plastered and painted. Interior wood partitions are sheathed with vertical tongue and groove boarding. The ceilings of the ground and second

floors are wood with exposed beams. The third floor has furred wood ceiling with a semicircular barrel vault over the central hall or living room.

5. Doorways and doors: Doors are either six-panelled doors with molded rails and stiles on three-panelled jalousie doors with movable louvers in the upper two panels and a solid panel below. The doorways have molded casing throughout the second and third floors.
6. Trim: The third-floor rooms have cornices and finish moldings under the ceilings and baseboards, molded arched openings between living room and galleries, and corner moldings.
7. Hardware: Wrought-iron strap hinges, wall hooks and bar brackets are used on the ground-floor doors and windows.

The second and third-floor shutters have wrought-iron H and L hinges, ring pulls, wall, sill and head hooks, porcelain door knobs, box and mortised locks. Most of the hardware is of a recent date.

8. Lighting: The building is wired for electricity.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The building is located on an L-shaped lot in a city block bounded by Church, King, Queen's Cross and Company Street. The lot measures 70' x 84'. The lot is bounded by masonry walls. A one story wood structure is built against the rear line of the lot.

Prepared by: F. C. Gjessing, Architect
November, 1959